

FILED

BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY

NOV 25 2014

STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF PHYSICAL THERAPY  
EXAMINERS

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION OF  
THE LICENSE OF

SHARON L. HOWARD, P.T.  
LICENSE NO. 40QA01236400

TO PRACTICE PHYSICAL THERAPY  
IN THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Administrative Action

FINAL ORDER  
OF DISCIPLINE

This matter came before the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners upon information that the respondent has failed to complete a total of thirty (30) credits of continuing education in approved physical therapy courses during the period of February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2012, as required for the 2012-2014 biennial license renewal pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:9-37.18 (a) 10 and N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.1 et. seq. Based upon information received and which the Board has reviewed, the following preliminary findings are made:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is a physical therapist in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.
2. On January 9, 2012 the respondent submitted her completed application for renewal of

license as a physical therapist in the State of New Jersey.

3. On her application, the respondent responded “yes” to the question of “Will you have completed the required continuing education (CE) by January 31st, 2012?”

4. On May 9, 2012, in connection with a random audit of licensees pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.4, the Board sent a letter to respondent requesting verification of CE credits obtained for the 2012-2014 renewal period. As a result of this inquiry the Board identified that respondent had not obtained any continuing education credits during the requisite time period of February 1, 2010 through January 31, 2012. The Board also discovered that 30 credits were taken after January 31, 2012, however these credits were all from distance learning courses, and pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.3(c)1., the maximum CE credits for these courses is 10. The Board applied these 10 credits to the 30 credit deficiency notwithstanding the fact that they were obtained after January 31, 2012.

#### CONCLUSION OF LAW

Respondent has not satisfied the requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:9-37.18 (a) 10 and N.J.A.C. 13:39A-9.1 et. seq. with regard to the completion of the appropriate number of approved continuing education credit hours and is therefore subject to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(h), failure to comply with the provisions of an act or regulation administered by the Board, which constitutes grounds for suspension or revocation of any certificate, registration or license, and grounds for sanction pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline ("POD") was entered on February 7, 2013 and served upon the Respondent at the last known address by regular and certified mail.

The POD was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30<sup>th</sup> business day following entry unless Respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting Respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

On February 26, 2013 a money order in the amount of \$1000.00 was received in full payment of the penalty imposed in this matter. Additional correspondence dated March 15, 2013 supported satisfactory completion of 20.5 continuing education credits.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ON THIS 25<sup>th</sup> DAY OF November 2014**

### **ORDERED:**

1. Respondent paid a civil penalty in the amount of \$1,000.00 in full satisfaction of the penalty imposed in this matter.

2. Respondent submitted proof of having completed the 20 outstanding continuing education credits. Thus satisfying the requisite thirty (30) hours of continuing education credits due upon renewal. **These continuing education credits are NOT to be used to renew respondent's license for the 2014-2016 renewal period.**

3. Respondent has met all of the conditions set forth in the POD and the Respondent's license to practice physical therapy remains active.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD  
OF PHYSICAL THERAPY EXAMINERS

By: Karen Wilk P.T. D.P.T. 400A00560100  
Karen Wilk, P.T., D.P.T.  
Chair

Via Certified and Regular Mail  
CM: RRR